

Transfer issue key facts, December 1, 2011

Context

- On October 13, 2011, Provost Tom Sullivan and Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education Bob McMaster presented a report on enrollment management to the Board of Regent's Educational Planning and Policy Committee.
- As part of that report – which was almost two years in the making – a slight decrease in the number of transfer students admitted to the University of Minnesota Twin Cities was recommended and approved. The general direction of the report had been known in University circles for about a year.
- In the wake of the Board meeting, the news media found interest in the transfer student issue. A few stories and blog items have since appeared.

Principles

- The University of Minnesota aims to admit students for success.
- For transfer students seeking admission to the Twin Cities campus, this means admitting fewer of them to better prepare them to succeed and graduate.
- Admission of transfer students remains an important, integral part of the University's mission.

What we do for our transfer students

- We've learned that, in general, transfer students don't have the same experience – academically or with co-curricular activities – as do students who enter as freshmen.
- The time to graduation is significantly longer for many transfer students due to the transition they have to make coming to the University.
- So, we have enhanced programs for transfer students on the U of M Twin Cities campus. For example:
 - We recently established a transfer orientation program.
 - We added a new Transfer Committee – a team from advising, admissions, financial aid and other departments – to improve the

transfer student experience.

- We have proposed creating a new position for a campus-wide Transfer Coordinator.
- Our primary goal is to ensure transfer students succeed and graduate on time once they come to the University.

Access

- As our undergraduate student experience has improved, we are retaining more traditional students. Simply put, fewer currently enrolled students are dropping out or transferring. So, there are fewer slots for transfers.
- Also, over the next three years, we will be increasing our student body by 1,000 undergrads in the STEM disciplines and nursing.
- Thus, we are *increasing* access for Minnesota students by retaining more students and increasing undergraduate admission to the STEM disciplines and nursing. But we do have to control our total enrollment.

Numbers

- Since 2000, the University of Minnesota Twin Cities has admitted an average of 3,084 transfer students per year.
- In future years, that number will decrease gradually and slightly – by about 300 annually – in order to better serve transfer students and the entire undergraduate student body.

Compared to our peers

- The University of Minnesota admits far more transfers than our peer institutions.
- Right now, 35 percent of our new students are transfers. But at:
 - Wisconsin and Michigan State, only 17% are transfers;
 - Illinois is at only 15%;
 - Michigan is at only 13%, with Indiana at 12%;
 - Penn State at 6%.
- We are committed to transfer students, access for Minnesota students and believe we're doing our fair share for transfer students.
- The University of Minnesota is considering a minimum credit threshold for

transfer students, much like what the University of Wisconsin requires, because transfer students that bring few credits are much more likely than those who come with more credits to drop out or not graduate on time.

Transfers from MnSCU

- 45 percent of transfers into the University of Minnesota are from MnSCU institutions.
- So, under the plan to admit fewer transfer students, at most about 135 MnSCU students could be affected.
- The University of Minnesota will continue to prioritize transfer students from Minnesota.
- MnSCU students will continue to have a leg up on many other transfer applicants.
- The University of Minnesota has a strong relationship with MnSCU through the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum.
 - With this program, a student who completes his or her general education requirements at a MnSCU institution and transfers to the U of M has automatically completed requirements at the U. That eases their ability to transfer.
- The MnCAP program guarantees students from seven MnSCU community colleges that they can transfer into certain majors at the University's Twin Cities campus.

University of Minnesota Statewide Campus Enrollment Management Plans

- The University of Minnesota's four statewide campuses – Crookston, Duluth, Morris, and Rochester – each have their own plans regarding transfer students.